



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS

**The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of
Homeland Security and Emergency Management**
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Flooding on Spicket Lane in Salem during the March storms. Photo courtesy of Pat Holland.

STATE TO SEEK PUBLIC ASSISTANCE FOR THREE COUNTIES – Governor Lynch has asked President Obama for a federal disaster declaration for Public Assistance for Hillsborough, Merrimack and Rockingham counties for damage caused by heavy rain, high wind and flooding during three storms between March 14 and April 2. A Preliminary Damage Assessment found damage in the three counties totaling more than \$3 million. The governor said more counties may be added to the request as more information becomes available. The state is also seeking Hazard Mitigation assistance for all 10 counties.

The disaster declaration request is the second for the state thus far in 2010. The first one was for the wind storm that occurred on Feb. 26/27. Grafton, Merrimack, Hillsborough, Rockingham, Strafford and Sullivan counties were granted Public Assistance for that storm.

LOW INTEREST LOANS AVAILABLE IN THREE COUNTIES – Low-interest loans are available from the U.S. Small Business Administration for residents of Carroll, Rockingham and Strafford counties who suffered damage from flooding and storms between Feb. 23 and March 31. The three New Hampshire counties are contiguous to York County, Maine, which makes them eligible for the loans because of an SBA disaster declaration for York County. Under the declaration, loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for loans up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property. Businesses and non-profit organizations of any size may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets.

For more information, call the SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 (800-877-8339 for people with speech or hearing disabilities), Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EDT or send an e-mail to disastercustomerservice@sba.gov. Business loan applications can also be downloaded from the SBA website at www.sba.gov/services/disasterassistance. The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is June 18, 2010. The deadline to return economic injury applications is January 19, 2011.

N.H. HAS HIGH FLU VACCINATION RATES – New Hampshire has among the highest rates of vaccination for the H1N1 flu, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. The CDC says New Hampshire vaccinated 28 percent of its total population and 46 percent of children aged six months to 17 years. The national average is 24 percent of the whole population and 37 percent of children. Public Health Director Dr. Jose Montero said the state had learned a lot from its large-scale vaccination campaign and that knowledge will be used to help improve the state's vaccination rates in the future.

READYNH NOW ON TWITTER – HSEM is making its first venture into the new world of social networking with a Twitter account associated with the state emergency preparedness homepage, ReadyNH. The Twitter feed allows the agency to promote new material posted on ReadyNH. During active emergencies it will transmit a stream of information on the response. Twitter allows for messages of up to 140 characters. The updates can be sent to e-mail accounts or cell phones. To become a ReadyNH follower, go to <http://twitter.com/ReadyNH> and sign up. ReadyNH is at www.nh.gov/readynh. There are also links to the site from the HSEM homepage and NH.gov.

GOFFSTOWN CERT GETS SECOND GOLD AWARD - The Goffstown Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) has been awarded its second President's Gold Volunteer Service Award. The Goffstown CERT, under the leadership of Director Susan Jutras, earned the distinction by putting in more than 4,500 hours of community service during 2009, working on public events, training, exercises and emergency activations. At the annual Goffstown CERT Recognition Dinner on March 28, Goffstown Emergency Management Director Chief Patrick Sullivan presented the President's Gold Volunteer Service Award, with a letter from President Obama. Each member was also awarded the President's Gold Volunteer Service Award pin.

UPDATED STATE FUNCTIONAL NEEDS GUIDANCE AVAILABLE – The State Functional Needs Guidance is a Support Annex to the State EOP. The Guidance is posted on the HSEM website under “News and Events”. The updated State Functional Needs Guidance includes a planning template for emergency management directors to complete and incorporate into local Emergency Operations Plans. State Functional Needs Committee members and representatives of the Governor’s Commission on Disability are available to EMDs and other emergency planners for consultation or identification of additional resources for completion of the template. For more information, contact Carole Totzkay at HSEM, 223-3642 or carole.totzkay@hsem.nh.gov.

UNITED CAMPUS MINISTRY BUILDING REOPENED – New Hampshire’s first anthrax episode in more than half a century is apparently over. The United Campus Ministry building in Durham, which was contaminated by anthrax spores carried by drums, has been cleaned up and reopened. The building had been quarantined since Christmas after a woman who had participated in a drumming circle there contracted a rare case of gastro-intestinal anthrax. The victim, who has not been named, was hospitalized in critical condition, but is now recovering at home. Dr. Jose Montero, the state Public Health director, says the remediation effort at the building was successful and testing has revealed no signs of anthrax spores.

DHHS MONITORING FINDS NO TRITIUM IN CONNECTICUT RIVER – The fifth round of sampling of Connecticut River water near the Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant yielded no signs of tritium. The radionuclide was detected in groundwater at Vermont Yankee in January, which was traced to an underground pipe tunnel. The N.H. Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public Health Services, began sampling river water to ensure that tritium was not reaching the river or private wells in New Hampshire. Public Health Director Dr. Jose Montero says the samples showed no tritium that could be detected by laboratory equipment and it does not pose a threat to public health. He said the department would no longer announce tritium sampling results, but it would continue to test for radioactivity in the VY area as it has always done. Cesium and other radionuclides have also been detected in the soil at the same VY source. Go to <http://healthvermont.gov/enviro/rad/yankee/tritium.aspx> for updates on Vermont Yankee.

VY SHUT DOWN FOR REFUELING – The Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant was taken off line April 24 for refueling. This is VY’s 28th scheduled refueling outage. The plant had been operating continuously for 532 days since its last refueling in 2008. The plant produced a record 5.3 million kilowatt-hours of electricity during 2009. For the refueling operation and other maintenance work the plant staff has been augmented by 800 workers. Among the maintenance work to be done will be rerouting steam trap drain lines in the advanced off gas system that were found to be the source of tritium leakage.